Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic affecting at least 5.3 million Americans; and,

Whereas, Every 21 seconds, someone in the United States will sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI), which equals more than 4,000 people daily; and,

Whereas, Each year, at least 50,000 Americans die, and 80,000 Americans experience the onset of life-long disabilities as a result of sustaining a brain injury; and,

Whereas, On average, over ten people a day sustain a traumatic brain injury in South Dakota, and many survivors of the West Nile Virus will suffer lasting cognitive impairments; and,

Whereas, Prevention is the only known cure; and,

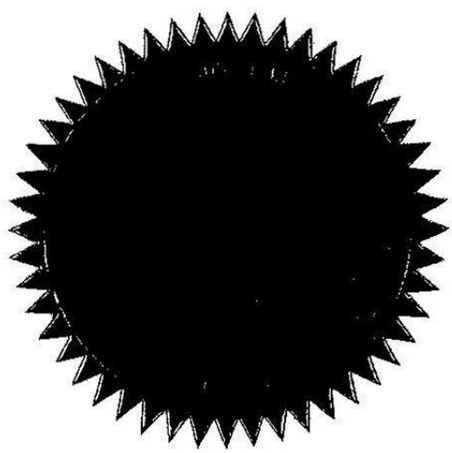
Whereas, The mission of the Brain Injury Association of America is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy; and,

Whereas, In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Defense Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (DBSCIP), the Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota strives to increase brain injury awareness, thus making prevention and safety measures part of the American culture in an effort to decrease the number of brain injuries:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2003, as

NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I call upon all government agencies, health organizations, communications media, and people of South Dakota to observe this month with appropriate recognition whereof.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State